

Re: HB 2842 - Establishes Healthy Homes Program within the Oregon Health Authority to provide grants to entities to provide financial assistance to low income households and landlords.

As a former staff person at Multnomah County Environmental Health, working in healthy homes programs for 8 years until funds were no longer available, I enthusiastically support this bill. I have been in and assessed many homes owned or rented by low-income families that are in very bad condition with regard to environmental contaminants such as lead, mold, and radon, as well as poor states of insulation and air tightness that lead to high bills for energy costs. Of course, these burdens are more prevalent in Black, Indigenous, and people-of-color communities.

Unhealthy housing puts additional chronic stress on low-income families besides the direct stress from poverty, with lost days of school and work, transportation to and from places of medical treatment, and illness itself exacerbating the challenges these families face in reaching for opportunities for advancement in society.

Thank you for your careful consideration of the opportunities presented in this bill.